

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 7007

BILL NUMBER: SB 241

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 1, 2009

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Construction Industry Disaster Volunteer Program.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Merritt

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill establishes the Construction Industry Disaster Volunteer Program. It provides immunity from civil liability to a construction industry professional and the construction industry professional's employer for services provided by the construction industry professional as a participant in the program during a disaster.

The bill also authorizes reimbursement for certain expenses incurred by a construction industry professional while participating in the program during an emergency. The bill makes technical corrections.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: The bill creates the program to encourage the construction industry to volunteer equipment and personnel during a disaster. The value of the volunteers' time and equipment would potentially reduce state and local expenditures. A volunteer would be eligible to receive reimbursement of expenses actually incurred for:

1. actual and necessary travel;
2. subsistence;
3. maintenance expenses; and
4. other expenses as approved.

The expenses, if limited to mileage, state per diem, and state lodging rates, would be paid from existing revenue sources of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and would probably be minor.

The state has had 15 major disaster/emergency declarations by the President of the United States over the last 11 years. The state has averaged about 2 emergency/disaster situations annually.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: See *Explanation of State Expenditures*.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: DHS.

Local Agencies Affected: Local disaster/emergency relief entities.

Information Sources: Mara Snyder, DHS, 233-5341.

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